

# Wambule language

**Wambule** (/ˈwɑːmbuːlɪ/; Nepali: वाम्बुले, romanized: *Vāmbule*) is the language of the Wambule Rai, one of the Kiranti (किरान्ती) tribes of eastern Nepal. Wambule is spoken by more than 5000 people living around the confluence of the Sunkosi (सुनकोसी) and Dudhkosi (दूधकोसी) rivers near Kui-Bhir Hill. The Wambule-speaking area comprises the southernmost part of Okhaldhunga district, the westernmost part of Khotang district, the northernmost part of Udayapur district, and the northeasternmost part of Sindhuli district.

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Wambule	
Chourase	
Region	Nepal
<div>Native speakers</div>	14,000 <span> </span> (2011 census) <sup>[1]</sup>
<div><span>Language family</span></div>	<div>Sino-Tibetan <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li> Mahakiranti<span> </span>?<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Kiranti<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Western<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Chaurasiya<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Wambule</b></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul></div>
Language codes	
<span>ISO 639-3</span>	wme
<span>Glottolog</span>	wamb1257 <span> </span> (http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/wamb1257) <sup>[2]</sup>

## Names

*Ethnologue* records numerous other names that are used for this language. They include Ambule, Caurasia, Chaurasia, Chaurasya, Chourase, Chourasia, Ombule, Radu Yor, Tsaurasya, Umbule, Vambucauras Raduyor, Vambule, Vambule Radu Yor, and Vambule Yor.<sup>[3]</sup> The Wambule use several native and Nepali names to designate their language, such as 'Vāmbucaurās Rāḍuyor', 'Caurāsīā', 'Ombule', 'Umbule' and 'Vāmbule'. The language most closely related to Wambule is the western neighbour Jero.

## Geographical distribution

Wambule is spoken in the following villages of Nepal (*Ethnologue*).

- Wamdya****l** dialect (in southern Okhaldhunga District, Sagarmatha Zone): Rikdum, Fokul, Wamdya**l** (Ubu), Huku, Balachokfu, Ghiramdi, Simkaku, Peku, Tarkomdada, Rinuwal, Dhepti, Khachapu, Dhaircaur, Khayapu, Lorphe, Thulacaur, Moli, Vaksa, Leva, Sinju, Gairigau, Dhemdal**u**, Kopsepu, Phasku, and Serankhu
- Hilepane** dialect (in southern Okhaldhunga District, Sagarmatha Zone): Pipale, Bhadare, Hilepani, Thakle, Mandhare, Sokma Tar, Dundunma, Jakma, Jerun, Ricuva, and Lambol**e**
- Udayapur** dialect (in southern Okhaldhunga District, Sagarmatha Zone): Udayapur, Phedigau, Barasi,

- **Jhappali** dialect (in western Khotang District, Sagarmatha Zone): Kurleghat, Majhkhani, Byanditar, Rupatar, Kharka, Cuvabot, Jhapa, Lurkhubada, Vaitar, Balui, Thumka, Pakauci, Goviar, Gurdum, Jayaram Gha, Bahuni Dada, Todke, Limlun, Damli, Vetagau, and Temtuku
- **Udaypur** dialect (in northern Udayapur District, Sagarmatha Zone, and northeastern Sindhuli District, Janakpur Zone): Lekhani, Ghurmi, Salle, Sorun, Salleni, Pallo Salleni, Sindure, Majhkhani, Bhirpani, Kusumtar, and Jortighat
- **Sunsari** dialect (in south mid sunsari and near of morang District, koshi zone, chatra, jhumka, parkspur, ithari, And there is one of must wambule people lives in Panmara and dharan.
- **Morang** dialect (in south and north morang district laxmimarga, gacchiya, belbari, nalbari, farsadangi, kanepokhari, biratnagr wamblue people.

## Dialects

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Gaṇeś Rāī (VS 2055: 8-9) claims that four different Wambule dialects can be distinguished:<sup>[4]</sup>

- The **Wamdya** dialect is spoken in the Mānebhanjyāñ Village Development Committee of Okhalḍhuṅgā district, in the area situated roughly to the west of the Pañkhu Kholā to the east of the Rūmdū Kholā, to the north of the Dūdhkosī river and to the south to the village of Ketukebhanjyāñ. The Wambule capital village of Wamdya (which is presently known in Nepali as 'Ubu', 'Uṃbu', 'Ūbu' or 'Uvu') is situated at an altitude of about 1730 metres.
- The **Udaipure** dialect is spoken in Okhalḍhuṅgā district in a small area along the upper course of the Rūmdū Kholā, just east to the bazaar of Mānebhanjyāñ. Main village is Udaypur.
- The **Hilepāne** dialect is spoken in two neighbouring districts. Hilepāne proper is situated in Okhalḍhuṅgā district, to the west of the Rūmdū Kholā, to the east of the Bhāḍāre Kholā, to the north of the Sunkosī and Dūdhkosī rivers and to south of the village of Mānebhanjyāñ. The main village of Hilepānī is situated at an altitude of about 900 metres. A form of Hilepāne that is said to be influenced by Jero is spoken in Udaypur district, in the area situated to the southwest of the Sunkosī river, to the east of the Bahādur Kholā and to the north of the mouth of the Nibuvā Kholā. The village of Salle is situated at an altitude of about 1200 metres.
- The **Jhāppālī** dialect is spoken in Khoṭāñ district in the area to the west of the Dōthe Kholā and the village of Dāmlī, to the east of the Sunkosī river, to the north of the Khahare Kholā and to the south of the Dūdhkosī river. The main village of Jhāpā is situated at an altitude of about 1270 metres.

*Ethnologue* lists the dialects Bonu, Wamdya, Udaipure, Hilepane, and Jhappali, and notes that they appear to be mutually intelligible.

. The **Sunsari** dialect is spoken is likes a same of khotnag and okhladunga wambule rai types in there there is rapdacho, brankhalcho, vawachacho and etc. wambule people spoken their wambule languages in bassically panmara people.

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## Mythology

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According to legend, there was no earth at the beginning of time. There was only a single aqueous orb. The gods called in the help of seven suns to dry up the aqueous orb. After stones had become visible, termites made a mound of mud. Then insects, seedlings and birds were created. After the creation of the earth, the gods thought of creating the primordial living being. They created a human made of gold. When they tried to make it say things, the human could not utter a single sentence. The gods made many attempts and used

different kinds of golden metals, but all these creatures failed to speak. In the end, the gods created a human made of a mixture of bird's dung and ashes. This human was able to speak, but it spoke so badly that the gods became angry and cursed it by inflicting mortality upon it and its kind. The Wambule say that the proof that a human is made of dung and ashes is given by the bad odour emitted by rubbing one's body.

## History

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According to Gaṇeś Rāī, the Wambule tribe is named after one of their kings called *Vāñbu*, who is also commonly known as *Vāñbāhāṅg* ‘king *Vāñbā*’. His subjects were known as *Vāmbule* and his domain was called *Vāmdyāl* or *Vām Dyāl* (*Vām Village*).<sup>[5]</sup> Candra Bahādur Rāī also claims that the tribe is named after *Waṅbu*, one of the tribe's most important hwaṅpo ‘king’. This king, or rather chief, is said to rule over an area comprising the southern part of the present-day district of *Okhalḍhuṅgā* some time prior to the unification of Nepal under *Pṛthvī Nārāyaṇ Śāh*, King of *Gorkhā*, and his successors.

## Religious groups

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According to Opgenort, Wambule society can be divided into three religious groups. A distinction is made between the *Jagat*, the representative of the generally accepted religious beliefs, and the two sects called *Santa-Bhes* and *Hwam*. These two sects have more or less abolished the old tradition of paying respect to the deities and spirits, which have been replaced by the most important Hindu gods. However, the influence of Hinduism has also reached the *Jagat*, who worship Hindu gods beside their native deities and spirits. The Wambule also celebrate the Hindu festivals, which are national happenings throughout Nepal, such as *daśāī* and *tihār*.<sup>[6][7]</sup>

## References

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1. Wambule (<https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/wme/>) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)
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3. "Wambule" ([http://www.ethnologue.com/show\\_language.asp?code=wme](http://www.ethnologue.com/show_language.asp?code=wme)). *Ethnologue*. Retrieved 2012-06-04.
4. Rāī, Gaṇeś. "Ollo Kirāt: Vāmbule Rāī jātibāre saṃkṣipta adhyayan". *Libju-Bhumju*. **10**: 8–9.
5. Rāī, Gaṇeś. "Ollo Kirāt: Vāmbule Rāī jātibāre saṃkṣipta adhyayan". *Libju-Bhumju*. **10**: 3–10.
6. Opgenort, Jean Robert Matheus Leonard (2002). *The Wāmbule Language: grammar, lexicon, texts and cultural survey of a Rai-Kiranti tribe of Eastern Nepal*. Amsterdam: Leiden University (PhD thesis). ISBN 9080715816.
7. Opgenort, Jean Robert Matheus Leonard (2004). *A Grammar of Wambule. Grammar, Lexicon, Texts and Cultural Survey of a Kiranti Tribe of Eastern Nepal*. Leiden: Koninklijke Brill. ISBN 90-04-13831-5.

## Further reading

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